

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COURT OF APPEALS

---

In re ABIGAIL LYNN BLACKLEDGE and  
ETHAN JAMES PRUITT, Minors.

---

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

KAY BLACKLEDGE,

Respondent-Appellant.

---

UNPUBLISHED

December 15, 2005

No. 264110

Antrim Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 04-002866-NA

Before: Owens, P.J., Saad and Fort Hood, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent appeals as of right from the trial court's order terminating her parental rights to the minor children pursuant to MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i), (g) and (j). We affirm.

Respondent does not dispute that at least one of the statutory grounds for termination had been proved by clear and convincing evidence. *In re IEM*, 233 Mich App 438, 450; 592 NW2d 751 (1999). We find that the trial court did not clearly err in finding that termination was not contrary to the children's best interests. *In re Trejo Minors*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). Although respondent loved and was bonded to her daughter, she was not bonded with her son, and had never lived with him. The children had been in alternate placement for more than a year, during which time respondent made no effort to treat her substance abuse problem. She continued to use drugs until she was jailed. Further, the evidence showed that respondent would need at least one to two years before she could possibly be in a position to care for the children. Thus, the evidence did not establish that termination was clearly not in the children's best interests. *In re Fried*, 266 Mich App 535, 543-544; 702 NW2d 192 (2005).

Affirmed.

/s/ Donald S. Owens

/s/ Henry William Saad

/s/ Karen M. Fort Hood